

From: Steve Crandall
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/22/02 4:44pm
Subject: Re: U.S. v. Microsoft: Settlement Information

The proposed settlement seems inadequate considering the magnitude of Microsoft's monopolistic activities. In my mind there are some central issues that relate to the security of the country.

The wide-spread adoption of the Windows operating system has encouraged a computational monoculture. Monocultures in complex systems are always more susceptible to attack and recovery is slower.

In light of the September 11 event I would like to see a major adoption of a non-trivial number of operating systems and application suites by the government. For example - for a five year period all government purchases (especially in the military and other sensitive areas) would have to include a minimum of three operating systems with none of them accounting for more than 49% of the total. This would constitute enough business for growing players that they could devote the appropriate resources to building world class product. Apple's OS X is clearly good enough now as is Linux and some of the BSD flavors.

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